



STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SECURITY: WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

Student Urges Adoption Of Personal Accounts For Greater Retirement Growth: "The stock market has had a long history of growth. In truth, the opposition to retirement accounts comes from politicians who will no longer have access to your "trust fund." When Social Security was started in 1935, 16 workers supported every retiree. Today, those numbers have shrunk to three workers per retiree. And it gets worse. In 2017 — just 12 years from now — Social Security will pay out more than it takes in. This difference will have to be made up by dipping into other government spending, raising taxes or cutting benefits. Private accounts would give all workers access to stock market growth. Creating a nest egg would also give workers something to pass on to their families when they die. Students today look at the current system and cringe. Why shouldn't they? They need to act, and quickly, if they want to see benefits in the future." (Chris Liakos, "Retirement Accounts Put Future First," *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, 9/20/05) [Read The Op-Ed.](#)

Sen. Santorum Assures That Benefits Will Remain Same For People 55 And Over: "I have held dozens of town hall meetings throughout Pennsylvania, and the main theme I heard from seniors was that they were concerned that efforts to strengthen Social Security for younger workers may jeopardize their benefits," said Senator Santorum. "It's important to let our seniors know that the benefits that they worked so hard for will not change. By guaranteeing benefits to seniors and eliminating these fears, the Social Security debate can focus on real solutions for Americans who were born after 1950." (Sen. Santorum Press Release, "Senator Santorum Introduces Legislation to Guarantee Social Security Benefits for Seniors," 9/22/05) [Read The Press Release.](#)

Sen. Jim DeMint – Congressional Budget Office Predicts Universal Participation In Personal Accounts: "While CBO's letter to Senator Baucus does not specifically address my proposal, I was pleased to see another estimate predicting universal participation in the accounts. This is proof-positive that personal Social Security accounts are a good deal for Americans, and it clearly shows that workers will overwhelmingly choose to stop the raid on their retirement and start the savings... My plan does not increase the deficit; the current rate of spending is what increases the deficit. The Stop the Raid Act simply forces Congress to use the Social Security surplus for Social Security, and exposes the government's true level of federal spending. If Senator Baucus is worried about the deficit, he should stop raiding workers' retirement and start working to cut government waste, fraud, and abuse." (Sen. DeMint Press Release, "CBO Says Americans Will Stop The Raid On Social Security," 9/15/05) [Read The Release.](#)

Former Congressman Tim Penny (D-MN) – Strengthening Social Security Is Bipartisan: "President Bush and Vice-President Cheney met today with members of the bipartisan commission on Social Security and reiterated the commitment to strengthening Social Security for future generations. The White House meeting with the president included commission members Tim Penny, who currently serves as advisory board chair to For Our Grandchildren, and Leanne Abdnor, president of For Our Grandchildren. President Bush and commission members called on congressional leaders to move forward on bipartisan action to strengthen Social Security. The Social Security Trustees reported last March that Social Security's cash deficits will begin as early as 2017. 'America's younger workers and future retirees want Congress to take bipartisan action to protect their retirement futures,' said Penny. 'Social Security is neither a Democratic idea nor a Republican one. Strengthening Social Security will require both parties working toward meaningful reform that acknowledges the real challenges facing the system.'" (For Our Grandchildren Press Release, "Members Of Bipartisan Social Security Reform Commission Meet With President And Vice President At White House," 9/21/05) [Read The Release.](#)